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Robertson, Clara Louise, 1908-2004 (MSS 87)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Kentucky Library & Museum
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 87 ROBERTSON, Clara Louise, 1908-2004

½ box. 4 folders. 3 items, 1920-1923. Originals.

2000.93.1

BIOGRAPHY

Clara Louise Robertson was born on Valentine's Day 1908 to Eugene Beverly Robertson (1866-1957) and Clara Mae (Thomas) Robertson (1884-1974) of Louisville, Kentucky. Residing at 331 Birchwood Avenue, Clara Lou shared her home with her parents and one brother, James Thomas Robertson (b. 1906). After attending Emmet Field Elementary School and George Rogers Clark School, Robertson entered Louisville Girls High School in September 1922. In January 1924, she enrolled in the newly opened J. M. Atherton High School for Girls, from which she graduated in June 1926.

Robertson then attended John B. Stetson University (now Stetson University) in DeLand, Florida from 1926-1929 and was a member of Pi Beta Pi sorority. After a grand tour of Europe (62 days), she completed coursework at the University of Louisville in 1930 and graduated in the spring of 1931. On Labor Day 1931, she met William John "Bill" Keech (1904-1976), a recent graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After a long-distance courtship of three years by correspondence, they were engaged in June 1934 and married February 21, 1935. Leaving the pastorate in 1943, Bill Keech served the American Baptist Convention on the state and national levels and retired as Director of Missionary Education and Stewardship in 1967. During their marriage, Bill and Clara Lou lived in California, Utah, New York, and Pennsylvania before retiring to North Carolina. Their only child, William Robertson Keech (b. 1939) is a member of the political science faculty at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Nine years after Bill's death, Clara Lou in 1985 married a beau from her Florida college days, Charles Bernard Yancey. In 1992, they were residing in Durham, North Carolina.

THE COLLECTION

An avid reader of Annie Fellows Johnston's Little Colonel books, Clara Louise Robertson began her diary on May 6, 1920 in a *Little Colonel's Good Times Book* given to her by her mother. Twelve-year-old Robertson chronicled her daily life, providing detailed depictions of school, church and club activities and amusements in Louisville, Kentucky between May 6, 1920 and January 2, 1923. She vividly described her 1921 family vacation to Washington, D.C., by

automobile, and her impressions of President Warren G. Harding and his dog, Laddie Boy. The volume also includes a birthday record in which Robertson recorded birthdates of family and a preface in which Annie Fellows Johnston encourages young diarists.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Diary	1920-1991	3 items
Folder 1	Descriptive Inventory, letter and photo	1921, 1991	2 items
Folder 2	<i>Little Colonel's Good Times Book</i> (original)	May 6, 1920- Jan. 2, 1923	1 item
Folder 3	<i>Little Colonel's Good Times Book</i> (photocopy)	May 6, 1920- Jan. 2, 1923	1 item
Folder 4	Diary transcript [prepared by Sue Lynn McGuire, 1991-1992]	May 6, 1920- Jan. 2, 1923	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS ROBERTSON, Clara Louise, 1920-1991
87 1908-2004

Diary kept by Robertson of Louisville, Kentucky, detailing schools, church and club activities and amusements. Vivid description of a 1921 Washington, D.C. family vacation. Associated letter, 1991.

½ box. 4 folders. 3 items. Original, photocopy, typescript with index and 1 photo.
2000.93.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Baptists – Louisville, 1920-1922
Camp Fire Girls, 1920
Chautauqua – Louisville, 1920-1922
Children – Diaries, 1920-1923
Churches and religious affairs – Louisville, 1920-1922
Clubs – Louisville, 1920-1922
Diaries, 1920-1923 – Children
Diaries, 1920-1922 – Robertson, Clara Louise

Funeral rites and customs – Louisville, 1922
 Harding, William Gamaliel, Pres. U.S., 1865-1923 – Comments about, 1921
 Kentucky River, 1921
 Louisville, 1920-1923
 Louisville – Baptists, 1920-1922
 Louisville – Chautauqua, 1920-1923
 Louisville – Churches and religious affairs, 1920-1922
 Louisville – Clubs, 1920-1922
 Louisville – Funeral rites and customs, 1922
 Louisville – Schools, 1920-1923
 Louisville – Swimming, 1920-1923
 Ohio River, 1921
 Pets, 1920-1922
 Rivers – Kentucky River, 1921
 Rivers – Ohio River, 1921
 Robertson, Clara Louise, 1908-2004 – Photos, 1921
 Robertson, Clara Mae (Thomas), 1884-1957 – Relating to
 Robertson, Eugene Beverly, 1886-1957 – Relating to
 Robertson, James Thomas, b. 1906 – Relating to
 Schools – Louisville, 1920-1923
 Swimming – Louisville, 1920-1923
 Travel and description – Indiana, 1920, 1923
 Travel and description – Louisville, Kentucky to Washington, D.C., 1921
 Travel and description – Washington, D.C., 1921
 Washington, D.C. – Travel and description, 1921

SEE or SEE ALSO

Yancey, Clara Louise (Robertson) Keech

See:

Robertson, Clara Louise

Keech, Clara Louise (Thomas)

See:

Robertson, Clara Louise